

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
January 10, 2011

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Rae Ann Butler	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec	Cristina Donahue-Taylor		
Hal Ehart	Carolyn True	David Gray, Comm		
Millard Haines		Margaret Nusbaum		
Diane Julian		Virginia Skelley		
Jim Judd				
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Mary Rice				
Debra Savageau				
Stephen Wilhide				
Robert Wannemacher				

- I. **Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions –** Louise welcomed all attendees. New members were present at today's meeting so introductions were done around the room.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the December 13, 2010 meeting were approved as written. All were in favor.

- III. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was not present at today's meeting. He is attending a MD Association of Counties meeting. He will be holding open forums and it would be beneficial for members of this commission to attend these meetings and express their concerns regarding senior issues.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm was present at today's meeting. Property tax revenue is significantly lower this year. Property assessments have gone down. State funding issues will likely trickle down to the county and municipalities.

- IV. CoA Project (P McGill email dated November 19, 2010)**, Patty McGill recently resigned from the CoA via email to all members. The members of the Executive Committee felt that the issues relating to this potential project are already being addressed and work has already begun on resource issues.

Creation of an inter-agency collaboration vision, All – There are many agencies in Frederick County who have similar goals and resources. It would be extremely advantageous for these agencies to share information in order to avoid duplication and/or gaps of services for older adults in need. A key problem is how to coordinate the sharing of the information and how to get the coordination started. One starting point would be to identify agencies that provide case management. It was suggested that the commission meet with the BoCC and inform them of the plan and ultimate goal of a collaboration of local agencies. Steve Wilhide will introduce this objective to the Frederick County Access to Care Coalition at their next meeting. Once the interagency committee (IAC) is established, a liaison from this commission should be selected to bring information and/or needs of the IAC to the monthly meeting. Steve volunteered to become the liaison once this team is established. Raeann may become an alternate liaison. Coordination of care is very important for the well being of local older adults. It also provides cost saving as it decrease numerous unnecessary (re)admissions to the hospital. If older adults can receive timely well care for chronic conditions, the need for hospital visits is decreased. Area agencies seemed to be very interested in care coordination during the CoA meeting in November, 2010. It would be very beneficial to have Frederick Memorial Hospital on board as part of this IAC. A pilot program would be an advantageous if grant money could be found for start up funds. Carolyn will begin work on this project in March.

Preparation of 2010 Annual Report, Louise Lynch – The annual report will soon be presented to the BoCC. This report will review the

accomplishments of this commission over the past year. The report was presented for the first time last year. Accomplishments and the report will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

Preliminary discussion about items for inclusion in Area Plan for 2011-2014, Louise Lynch, Carolyn True – This Area Plan will be submitted to clarify the needs and plans for the local DoA for the next four years. It is submitted to the MD DoA. This commission can provide input for this plan. A comprehensive needs assessment is a top priority. It was suggested that a request for this be included in the annual report to the BoCC. The commission has gathered some information with the survey that was handed out during the Elder Expo and other gatherings. The results of this survey have not been finalized. The cost of the proposed Towson needs assessment is \$46,000. This assessment has not occurred due to budget issues. The area plan is not due until July. It is difficult to propose what the needs will be five years in the future. Adjustments are made to the plan every year. Currently home and community based services are a top priority. Members from this commission could bring ideas to future meetings.

- V. USM Report, Ginny Skelley** – Ginny was not present for today's meeting. The date for the rally has been changed to March 9, 2011.

A letter was sent to the Governor with a copy to the MDoA and the lieutenant governor. A copy should also be sent to the BoCC. This letter was to support the MDoA and have it remain an individual agency. Nearby counties have had their DoA combined with the local disabilities agency. Admittedly, there could be a benefit to the merging of agencies in that it would reduce duplication of services.

Nomination Committee Report, Jim Judd, Millard Haines – One of the first things on the agenda for this committee is to recommend officers for this year. A suggestion is that input be solicited from the full commission for officers prior to the January meeting in the future. The committee recommends that Louise Lynch be elected as Chairperson and Raeann Butler be elected as Vice Chairperson. There were no other recommendations from the commission. Steve Wilhide moved that the recommendation be accepted. Diane Julian seconded the motion. All were in favor. There are still two open positions on this commission. The open positions have been advertised. Letters of interest should be sent to Joyce Grossnickle at Winchester Hall. Criteria are that potential members must be a resident of Frederick County and a registered voter. Fifty percent of the CoA must be 60 or older. For geographic diversity, no more than fifty percent should reside within Frederick City. Twenty percent will be providers of aging services. Employees of the DoA may not be members. The Nomination Committee will devise a form for each

1/10/2011

member of the commission to complete to ensure we are meeting these criteria. This will become an official CoA directory. If there are no objections, Jim will email this form to each member once it has been finished. This committee is also working on Policies and Procedures for the committee. It should be available for presentation at the February meeting. Patty McGill's recent resignation leaves the Nomination committee one member short. The time obligation is minimal. Diane Julian and Debra Savageau will consider the position and inform Jim or Louise.

CoA Executive Report, Hal Ehart – The Executive Committee met and discussed the email from Patty McGill and the relevance which was reviewed at the beginning of today's meeting. It was suggested the chair and co chair solicit more comment from the commission during monthly meetings. The use of acronyms is very extensive at times. Members are encouraged to ask if they are not sure what the acronym represents. There is a need for another member for the Executive Committee. Bob Wannemacher volunteered to join this committee. Raeann moved to accept appointment. Jim seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Director's Report, Carolyn True – There have been noteworthy changes to the MD Ombudsman program. There were thirty-six recommendations presented by an outside consultant. Alice Hedt is the new State Long Term Care Ombudsman. Team reviews are being done with these recommendations. Some staff from the Frederick DoA are serving on these teams so that our voices are being heard. The meetings are being held in Baltimore. This is an ongoing process and will last approximately six to eighteen months.

Medicare D open enrollment has ended for 2010. Staff and volunteers assisted 478 Medicare participants review and select suitable prescription plans. There were also 78 participants who applied for the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program (SPDAP).

The MOW and HDM (home delivered meal) programs were able to deliver meals to 132 clients in December. The HDM programs deliver meals from the local senior centers.

The Frederick Senior Center will be hosting a Chronic Disease Self Management workshop, "Living Well". The workshop is grant funded and will be held on six Thursdays starting on January 6th.

The Be A Santa to A Senior held a gift wrapping party on December 17th. The program was able to distribute gifts to 320 older adults during the week of Christmas.

1/10/2011

Partners in the Arts is a program which will be held in March. This program is for those with early stage dementia and their caregivers. This program will be held at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Center.

There have been no noted additions to the list of doctors excepting new patients who are also Medicare participants. This is an ongoing issue.

- VI. Announcements, All** – Friends of MoW has received grant money from the Community Foundation with will enable them to purchase program materials. They are working on their first fundraiser and will be working with Chick-A-Filet. They will also be asking for a list of priorities from the DoA. It should be noted that this is to be in addition to what the department is doing, not in place of what they are doing.

The ESPC will be meeting Thursday, January 13th at the Frederick Senior Center. Hal will be attending the meeting this month as Raeann is unable to attend.

This commission still needs a liaison for Partner's in Care. Mary Rice volunteered to become this liaison. There is also still a need for a liaison to the Affordable Housing Council.

- VII. Adjournment, All** – The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

February 22, 2011 Executive Committee meeting, Frederick Senior Center,
Frederick, MD 21702

March 9, 2011 – USM Rally, Annapolis, MD. No snow date.